

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 8, with the following paragraph:

- - Some instruments such as surgical staplers and those having diameters up to [[about]] 37 mm or more have been too large for trocar access. Furthermore, present trocar seals typically require two valves, one for forming an instrument seal in the presence of the instrument, and the other for forming a zero seal in the absence of the instrument. Accordingly, there is a need in the art for a surgical access device that can function both as a zero seal and as an instrument seal, and that can accommodate a wide range of instruments having diameters up to [[about]] 37 mm or more. - -

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 18, with the following paragraph:

- - The deficiencies of the prior art are overcome with the present invention which includes a seal apparatus. In one embodiment, the device includes a valve structure formed of a gel including, for example, a thermoplastic base such as KRATON® and an oil. The resulting elastomer has excellent tear strength, high elongation, a very low durometer or hardness, and biocompatibility. The access device can function both as a zero seal and as an instrument seal. Furthermore, it can accommodate a full range of instruments having diameters up to [[about]] 37 mm or more. In another embodiment,

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several instruments of smaller diameter can be accommodated at the same time with a single access device.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 22, with the following paragraph:

--FIG. 3 is a plan view taken along lines ~~[[5-5]]~~ 3-3 of FIG. 2;--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 1, with the following paragraph:

-- In order to accommodate a wide range of instruments, a small incision 50 is typically created in the abdominal wall 25. An access device 55 of the present invention can be provided to further facilitate insertion of wide instruments such as those having diameters up to ~~[[about]]~~ 37 mm or more.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 21, with the following paragraph:

--A further embodiment of the invention is illustrated in FIG. 4 where elements of structure similar to those previously disclosed are designated with the same reference numeral followed by the lower case letter "a." This exploded view of the access device 55a includes not only the pad 65a but also a complimentary structure for maintaining the position of the pad 65a, for forming a seal between the pad 65a and the abdominal

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wall 25, and for dilating the incision 50 to a variable extent as required by a surgeon. In this case, the access device 55a includes three components, a ~~[[jell]]~~ gel cap 100, base 105, and a wound retractor 110 as described in co-pending International Application No. PCT/US03/17389, filed on June 3, 2003, entitled "Wound Retractor," which is fully incorporated herein by reference.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 8 with the following paragraph:

--In another embodiment of the invention, FIG. 9 illustrates a base 105b having a generally straight inner surface 130b which extends distally to a raised wall 140b and outwardly from the raised wall 140b along an annular lip 145b, which is sized and configured to fit into an annular void 120b formed on the inner circumference of a corresponding cap ring ~~[[120b]]~~ 102b. In yet another embodiment of the invention, FIG. 10 illustrates a base 105c having a raised wall 130c along an inner diameter and a generally straight surface 140c extending distally along an annular lip 145c, which is sized and configured to fit into an annular void 120c formed on the inner circumference of a corresponding cap ring ~~[[120c]]~~ 102c.--